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THE  
MONTHLY



SEP 29 1964

GULL  
BULLETIN

Volume 46

Berkeley, California

October 1964

Number 10

### OWLS FOR OCTOBER MEETING

The 553rd regular meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held on **Thursday, October 8**, at 7:30 p.m. in the Rotary Natural Science Center in Lakeside Park, Oakland.

In anticipation of the Halloween season, our program will feature owls and other birds of prey. A. Warren Larson, President of the Golden Gate Audubon Society, will present a commentary and a series of slides taken under varying degrees of difficulty.

A no-host dinner will be held at 6 p.m. at Lovcly's Buffet, 366 Grand Avenue near Perkins. Come and bring a friend.

— THOMAS B. WILLIAMSON, *Program Chairman*

### FIELD TRIPS FOR OCTOBER

**Saturday, October 3**, boat trip off Monterey. Boat will leave Sam's Wharf at 9 a.m. and return at 3 p.m. Park cars at Fisherman's Wharf Municipal Parking Lot **Read instructions on meters as they have been changed. There is no free zone but 8 hours' parking allowed for 25 cents in some areas.** Allow one-half hour to park car, walk to Sam's Wharf and board boat. Wear warm clothing, bring lunch and seasick pills. This trip will be at the time of heavy migration of ocean birds that travel on a route fairly close to the coast of Monterey. Black-footed albatross, pink-footed, New Zealand and sooty shearwaters, black and ashly Petrel, pomarine and parasitic jaegers, and skua have been seen on previous trips. A group of expert birders from Los Angeles will join us. A social get-together with the Los Angeles birders at Bamboo Garden, 2030 Fremont Ex. in Monterey is planned for Saturday evening. Boat fare \$4.50 per person. Make checks payable to the Golden Gate Audubon Society Inc. and send to Harold G. Peterson, 3548-65th Ave., Oakland, Calif. 94605. Leaders, Richard Stallcup, LO 9-3185, Guy McCaskie, 6115 Montezuma, San Diego and Arnold Small, Los Angeles.

On **Saturday, October 17**, to St. Mary's College and vicinity. Meet at 9 a.m. at the front entrance (drive in) to the college one mile north-west of Moraga. This is a favorite spot for all the local birding groups. The oak-laurel-madrone woods border on open grass, sparse oaks, a habitat for a great variety of land birds. Some interesting water birds are sometimes also found in the creek area. Leader, Elsie Roemer, Phone 522-0941.

**Saturday, October 31**, to Point Reyes Peninsula. Land, shore and water birds are numerous here at this time. The varied habitat of fresh and salt water marshes, open fields, and open water attracts many species. Golden plovers, pectoral sandpipers and tropical kingbird were seen on previous trips. It is not unusual to check off over 100 species. Some sections of the Point Reyes National Seashore Park may be visited. Meet at the store in Inverness at 9 a.m. Our leaders live in this area. Leaders, Grace Miller, Inverness, Phone 669-1289 and Alice Williams, Phone 669-1218.

### **WATERFOWL REFUGES FIELD TRIP — NOV. 14-15**

On **Saturday and Sunday, November 14-15**, to Willows and Gridley Refuges. Saturday meet at 10 a.m. at Gray Lodge Waterfowl Management Area southwest of Gridley. After touring the refuge drive west to Willows for the night. To reach the refuge from Gridley, drive west on Colusa Road about 4 miles, then turn south on Pennington Road to sign on right directing traffic to the refuge. It can also be reached from Route 99E by turning west at Live Oak. Ask at any service station for directions and road conditions.

Sunday morning, at 9:30, meet at Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge, about 7 miles south of Willows on Route 99W. Those wishing to make the over-night trip should write for reservations at once to one of the motels in or near Willows. Hunting season will be on, so accommodations will be hard to get.

The following motels are in or near Willows:

Blue Gum Motel, 5 mi north on 99W, Phone WELLington 4-5401.

Safari Motel, 251 S. Tehama St., Willows, Phone WELLington 4-9934.

Western Motel, 601 N. Tehama St., Willows, Phone 934-3856.

Willows Motel, 725 S. Tehama St., Willows Phone WELLington 4-4778.

A social evening is being planned at the Blue Gum Motel 5 miles north of Willows on Route 99W, on Saturday. This place serves excellent meals and has ample parking. Drop a line to the leader if you plan to join the group so that the restaurant people can be advised of how many to serve. Leader, Harry Adamson, 995 Carrol Way, Lafayette, Calif. Phone ATlantic 3-2164.

— HAROLD G. PETERSON, *Field Trips Chairman*

### **FOR THE CHILDREN**

The October field trip will be led by Miss Bertha Underhill, Vice-President of the Golden Gate Audubon Society. It will be held at Tilden Park, Berkeley. Meet at Tilden Nature Area Parking lot. If you are coming in a car, go out Spruce Street to the Park entrance and follow the signs to the Nature Area, or take number 67 bus out Spruce Street to the Park entrance and walk about 1/2 mile to the Nature Parking Lot. The date is **Saturday, October 10**. Be there at 10:30. The walk will end at 1:30. Bring your lunch, and if you are eight years of age or younger you must come with an adult. All adults must be accompanied by children. If you haven't one of your own bring a friend or neighbor.

## Migration

Migration means to move from one place to another. With birds, however, it means to do this every year during certain seasons. Not only do the birds move from their winter feeding grounds to summer nesting places but they travel over a regular route. This is known as a flyway. We along the West Coast of California are lucky to be right on the Pacific Flyway. For this reason we see birds both coming and going.

Such birds are known as migrants and they usually stay here only long enough to rest and feed before they move along. We also have visitants, which come for a while during one of the seasons of the year. We have such winter visitants as the glaucous-winged gull, that large gull without a trace of black on its wings. Most of the geese are winter visitants, and that beautiful small gray bird with a crest, a black mask and a yellow-tipped tail, the cedar waxwing, comes in the winter and clears the red berries from our shrubs. There are, of course, other birds that spend the winter with us.

We also have summer visitants such as the barn and cliff swallows. You will be able to tell these swallows apart if you remember that the barn swallow has a forked tail and a cinnamon-colored throat, while the cliff swallow has a white quarter moon on the forehead and a red rump.

The migrant birds pass through so quickly, remaining only a day or two, that we think of them as rare, but that only means that they are rare in the Bay Area.

We have a great many birds which live here throughout the year. These are known as residents. Brewer's blackbird is one. I am sure you have often seen these birds strutting along the ground, the male in his glossy black coat which, in certain lights, looks purplish around the head. The female is much duller in color and has very dark eyes, unlike those of the male, which are bright yellow. Robins too are residents; at least we can find them here all through the year, though the same birds do not actually stay with us. In the spring flocks of robins move northward, those of the south remaining in the Bay Area and those which were around during the winter moving on. Some go as far as the high mountains where they nest in the tall pine trees. The large western gull, most of the woodpeckers, and the house finches that sing so beautifully about our homes are all residents too.

It is interesting to keep track of the birds as they come and go throughout the year. Spring for many people starts when the first migrant birds pass through. When you catch sight of that tiny red rufous hummingbird that arrives when winter is hardly over, you will know that March has come or that the year is drawing to a close.

I hope you have a fine time with Miss Underhill. Tilden Park is a beautiful place in which to look for birds.

— JANET NICKELSBURG, *Education Chairman*



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

HELP! HELP! We need your help! In any organization such as the Golden Gate Audubon Society it takes a large number of persons working together to achieve satisfactory results. The elected and appointed officers are unable to do all there is to do. If each member would help just once each year it would make our organization much more effective and enjoyable for all.

We need many persons to help the State Department of Fish & Game on a long time wildlife survey in the areas from Richmond to south of Bay Farm Island. In some areas of our State the local Audubon groups have done a tremendous job. We desire to do likewise.

The annual Christmas bird count is being organized under the direction of Arthur Wang, Berkeley, 524-7399. He will need much help. He desires to make this bird count the best ever in this area.

On our field trips we need people to help lighten the load of our many good trip leaders. The trips are well planned and we always have several very excellent "birders" along to help on the identification of birds seen. However, we do need help for directing the length of time and the number of stops along the way. This is not as hard as it at first seems.

We need help on our *Gull* staff; we need help for our many kinds of mailing activities, both for Golden Gate Audubon Society and for Audubon Canyon Ranch. We need hostesses to help serve refreshments after the meetings where we do not have dinner before the meeting. We have been very fortunate to have had excellent help in all these manifold activities in the past and our present staff members and helpers are just tops. We would like to have more helpers in all of these many activities to lighten the load of those now helping make the Golden Gate Audubon Society the excellent organization it now is.

If you feel you can help our Golden Gate Audubon Society in any way we would appreciate hearing from you. Let anyone of the persons listed in the *Gull* know what you would like to help do. Will you let us know right away if you can help us?

— A. WARREN LARSON, *President*

### "RANCH LIFE AND WILDLIFE" ON OCTOBER 19

"Ranch Life and Wildlife" by Albert J. Wool of California will open the 1964-65 Audubon film series on **Monday, October 19** at 8 p.m. in the Berkeley Little Theatre, Allston Way at Grove Street.

The setting for this beautiful film is a cattle ranch in the Santa Cruz Mountains overlooking the Pacific Ocean. Rancher-conservationist Albert Wool treats his viewers to a motion picture portrait of the many interesting birds and other animals that live together as part of a natural community. Many wild animals such as the bobcat, the gray fox, and the badger play out their roles in the balance of nature along with the brush rabbit and the black-tailed deer. The golden eagle, red-tailed hawk, and turkey vulture also take part in this drama of wildlife. The film includes a horseback ride along the ocean to watch sea lions and bird life in and above the breakers.

The photographer, Albert J. Wool, grew up on his father's mountain ranch in California's Coast Range country. His keen interest in wildlife began as a boy when he made pets of frogs, toads, and salamanders. He discovered and climbed to his first eagle's nest at the age of ten. Encouraged by their parents, he and his brothers and sisters turned an empty room into a haven for injured birds, some of which became so tame that they followed the youngsters to school. While a student at Stanford University, Mr. Wool's knowledge and interest in natural history led him to special work on problems involving conservation of deer and the economic importance of California birds of prey. He joined the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society and served two years as its president. He has had articles published in natural history magazines and is an authority on California wildlife.

Al Wool owns and operates a 1300-acre cattle ranch in the Santa Cruz Mountains near La Honda, California, where he lives with his wife and children. For the past several years he has been producing motion pictures about wild creatures. He is dedicated to spreading his knowledge of birds and animals, proving to his audiences the value of wildlife, especially in relation to ranching.

Tickets are still available for the series of five personally narrated films. The price is \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for students under 18. Single admission tickets will cost \$1.50. Season tickets may be ordered now by sending a check to Audubon Wildlife Films, P.O. Box 103, Berkeley, California, 94701, payable to the Golden Gate Audubon Society. Please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope. The four additional films will be:

"Wildlife of the Eastern Woodlands" by Earl L. Hilfiker, Wednesday November 18.

"Wilderness Trails" by Charles T. Hotchkiss, Wednesday, January 27.

"New England Saga" by John D. Bulger, Wednesday, February 24.

"Delta of the Orinoco" by Robert C. Hermes, Thursday, March 18.

### CONSERVATION SERIES ON KQED

KQED Channel 9, San Francisco, announces the showing of the pilot program in a new Conservation Series. The program, entitled REDWOOD COUNTRY — THREE OPPORTUNITIES, focuses on state park and freeway problems and opportunities in northwestern California.

Ecologist Georg Treichel serves as anchor man for this new conservation series which is expected to go on a weekly schedule later this year. Additional information about the proposed series will appear in a forthcoming issue of *The Gull*.

REDWOOD COUNTRY will be telecast as a Special on **Saturday, October 17**, at 8:30 p.m.

### THE CUCKOO TRIP

Everyone saw the Cuckoo — well! (Two had returned August 2) On Friday, August 7 at dusk, we saw it go to roost in a box elder tree and the

next morning we were there waiting at dawn when it awakened. It then flew to a nearby cottonwood tree and hunted caterpillars, its staple food, where we watched it for 15 minutes. One green smooth "worm" as big as two inches of lead pencil was held by the head while it received considerable shaking and banging before it was swallowed.

Saturday night we witnessed no roosting activity. Early Sunday morning it hunted in the same tree, a little lower and more visible though more briefly than on Saturday. On each morning it then flew around the bend from where a little later one shot across the river. Before the crossing on Sunday, it gave the latter half of its call: kyow — kyow — kyow — kyow.

Every birder saw the Cuckoo at each of these three times that he was at Aden's, and every one of the 43 present was fully cooperative! Thank *you!*

The 51 species observed on this mildly weathered weekend included a family of blue grosbeaks, a red-shouldered hawk and 5 Swainson's hawks (dark phase and typical phase) one of which was found with a broken wing and taken to the Museum on Lake Merritt by Aileen Pierson. After surgery, it is recuperating — have a look at it. — OLIVER I. ALLEN, *Leader*

### FIELD TRIP TO THE MONTEREY AREA

A record-breaking group met at Moss Landing at 9 a.m. on August 29 and promptly dispersed throughout the Monterey area, affording a few of the smaller groups a day's pleasant birding. Birds could not be said to be outstanding, for the wind and overcast much reduced land bird activity and water birds were not present in abundance. At Moss Landing the highlights were the 75 or so elegant terns, these being worked by two parasitic jaegers just offshore. About 2,000 brown pelicans seemed normal for this time of year, as did the 100-200 northern phalaropes, but Heermann's gulls seemed a bit more numerous than in previous years. All other species were poorly represented. The afternoon was spent on the Monterey Peninsula. At the mouth of the Carmel River one each of lesser yellowlegs, pectoral and Baird's sandpipers were seen, and kittiwakes (which remained through the summer this year) were noted by a very few.

The Pacific Grove shoreline produced two more Baird's sandpipers, as well as the four typical shorebirds of the rocky coast. Alcids were very poorly represented, but two large groups of sooty shearwaters (one estimated as flying past in a westerly direction at 12,000 per minute for over an hour) were seen. Even more exciting were the sea otters, which were present in the dozens; a few were observed feeding on abalone, mussels or clams, and sea urchins but a few yards from shore.

The next morning the group boarded two chartered fishing boats and set out on reasonably calm weather, which soon betrayed those prone to seasickness. Most pelagic species were not seen until we were about 8 miles from the pier, but beyond this point numbers were seen. From the "Gray Ghost" the following observations were made: about 60,000 sooty

shearwaters were estimated, this being by far the commonest species; about 90 pink-footed, 4 New Zealands and one fulmar were also seen. Only one or two black petrels were noted but at least 75 ashly petrels, including two flocks of 15-20 were noted, all beyond about 18 miles out. Three black-footed albatross were observed. Jaegers were not common; pomarine and parasitic were seen as usual, and two top plumaged long-tailed were noted on the way in. Sabine's gulls were obviously migrating in numbers, for at least 75 were seen, all but the half-dozen immatures being in top breeding plumage. About 20 *Sterna* were seen, and at least one, which came quite close to the boat, proved to be an Arctic in full breeding plumage; the others were also quite likely this species. Alcids were scarce; only murrees and Cassin's auklets were seen. Even the marine mammals got into the act, for in addition to Dall's porpoise, which accompanied the boat, a bull elephant seal was briefly seen. The other boat reported seeing a tufted puffin, which partially made up for the missed long-tailed jaeger; otherwise our notes were quite comparable. — PAUL DeBENEDICTIS, *Historian*

### BLUE CHIP STAMPS NEEDED FOR CANYON RANCH

In order to raise \$800 to purchase one acre of Canyon Ranch for the Golden Gate and Marin Audubon Societies, the Ross Valley 4-H Club needs many more Blue Chip Stamps. They will have to fill 444 books to complete this conservation project. Please send your loose stamps or full books to the Ross Valley 4-H Club, c/o Agricultural Extension Service, Civic Center, San Rafael, California.

### NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to our Society: from Berkeley, Mr. Timothy Crawford, Miss Catherine M. Neighbor; from Kensington, Mrs. Gordon Zane; from San Bruno, Miss Jeanne Koelling; from San Francisco, Mrs. Josephine Aspinwall, Mr. Richard Goggin, Mr. Richard L. Jenkins, Mr. and Mrs. T. G. McCusker and family.

— MARJORIE N. WILSON, *Membership Chairman*

### MEMORIAL GIFTS

The following gifts of remembrance were made to the Audubon Canyon Ranch Sanctuary and Memorial Fund:

#### *In Memory of:*

Samuel W. Terry

Francis W. Avery

C. A. Harwell

James Jenkins

Mrs. Nina Young

Miss Lillian Underwood

#### *Gift of:*

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Butler

Dr. and Mrs. Albert Boles

Miss Jessie Granger

Mrs. James Jenkins, her children and their spouses

Mrs. Gwin Follis

Minnie H. Young

— DR. ALBERT BOLES, *Sanctuary & Memorial Fund Chairman*





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## DATED MATERIAL

1964

THE GULL

OCTOBER

## GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Established January 25, 1917 A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

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Canyon Ranch Fund Raising Chairman.....	Mrs. Myra Browne.....	482 Broadmoor, San Leandro	568-1921

Claims for missing numbers of THE GULL should be sent to the Editor. Changes of address should be sent to the Membership Chairman.

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint Membership, Local and National, \$8.50 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately \$2.00 per year.

Visit the Conservation Center of the NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY  
2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, California 94701 TH 8-4042